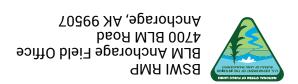
FIRST-CLASS MAIL POSTAGE & FEES PAID U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PERMIT NO. G-76



BSWI VISION

The Anchorage Field Office vision for the Bering Sea-Western Interior planning area is to sustain the diverse and intact ecosystems that support traditional subsistence lifestyles while recognizing the importance of BLM-managed public lands to rural economies.

COMING SOON

Fall-Winter 2018 - Release of draft BSWI RMP and 90-day comment period Spring 2019 - Release of Record of Decision and approved BSWI RMP

OUESTIONS? CONTACT US

BLM Anchorage Field Office 4700 BLM Road Anchorage, AK 99507

Bonnie Million, Field Manager 907-267-1285/800-478-1263

Jorjena Daly, Project Manager 907-267-1317/800-478-1263

Email: BSWI_RMP_Comment@blm.gov



Bering Sea - Western Interior

Resource Management Plan



NEWSLETTER #6 - AUGUST 2018

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) appreciates your continued interest in the Bering Sea – Western Interior Resource Management Plan (BSWI RMP). We hope you find these newsletters helpful for staying informed and engaged as this planning effort moves forward.

Much has happened since we sent our last newsletter. On August 31, 2017, the Secretary of the Interior issued an order (Secretarial Order 3355) to streamline our planning and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes. The order set page and time limits on environmental impact statements (EISs) and environmental assessments (EAs).

BLM engaged stakeholders, including state and local governments and tribal partners, and solicited public input to develop ways of improving planning and NEPA processes. Our goal is to make our land use planning process and environmental reviews more timely, less costly, and responsive to local needs.

As a result of this streamlining effort, we have a new timeline for completion of the BSWI RMP. You can find an updated schedule on page three of this newsletter. In addition, the document will be shorter, with references to more detailed reports.

The BSWI Project Team hopes to have the draft RMP available for public review and comment by early November. The BSWI Planning Team would then be available for community meetings in November 2018 to answer questions and take comments on the draft RMP. We anticipate wrapping up the BSWI planning process and issuing a Record of Decision and approved BSWI RMP in spring 2019.

As always, public input remains a critical element of our planning effort. We look forward to meeting with you, answering your questions, and hearing your comments.

Bonnie Million
Anchorage Field Manager



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE...

The BLM is working collaboratively to craft a plan that will guide the management of more than 13 million acres of BLM-managed lands in the Bering Sea – Western Interior region for the next 20 years. We are working with local, state, and tribal governments as well as Alaska Native corporations, the public, and stakeholder groups to develop a plan that serves us all well into the future. To learn more about the BSWI planning process, visit us on the web at: www.blm.gov/alaska/BSWI



The Unalakleet River, designated as a National Wild River, is located within the BSWI planning area.

LET'S MEET!

The BSWI Project Team hopes to have the draft RMP available for public review and comment by early November. The team would then be available in November 2018 to travel to BSWI communities to provide updates, answer your questions, and hear your comments on the draft RMP.

In the coming weeks, we will be sending out letters and following up with phone calls to schedule informational meetings in communities within the BSWI planning area and provide opportunities for tribal consultation. If you would like to schedule a community meeting or consultation you can contact Angel Rabon at 907-267-1482 or by email, arabon@blm.gov. A schedule of public meetings will be released and published on the web at www.blm.gov/alaska/BSWI and in local newspapers, with meeting announcements made on local radio stations.

HOW TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT BSWI RMP

When the draft plan is available, you will have several options to provide feedback, including:

- Commenting through the BLM ePlanning website. The link to ePlanning can be found at www.blm.gov/alaska/BSWI
- Emailing comments to: BSWI_RMP_Comment@blm.gov
- Mailing comments to: BLM Anchorage Field Office

Attn: BSWI RMP 4700 BLM Road Anchorage, AK 99507

Providing comments verbally or in writing at a public meeting.

Comments will be most helpful if you can state specifically what you like and what you don't like, and what improvements you think can be made. Suggest changes and be specific. It is helpful if you can reference a section or page number.



BSWI Planning Process





PROCESS MILESTONES

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Notice published in Federal Register	2013	Notice of Intent to Prepare RMP
 180-day Public Scoping Period Public Scoping Meetings/Online Open Hous Tribal Consultations 	2013-2014	Public Scoping
120-day Nomination Period	2014	ACEC Nomination Period
	2015	Preliminary Alternatives
 120-day Public Comment Period Public Meetings/Online Open House Tribal Consultations 	2015	Preliminary Alternatives Outreach
	2015-2016	Refine Alternatives
	2016-2018	Prepare Draft RMP
 Notice published in Federal Register 90-day Public Comment Period begins Public Meetings/Online Open House Tribal Consultations ANILCA 810 Hearings 	November 2018	Notice of Availability of Draft RMP/EIS
	February 2019	Respond to Comments Revise RMP
 Notice published in Federal Register Online Availability 30-day Protest Period 60-day Governor's Consistency Review 	March 2019	Notice of Availability of Proposed RMP/Final EIS Protest Period Governor's Consistency Review
Online Availability	April 2019	Record of Decision and Approved RMP